



**North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services**

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Michael F. Easley, Governor

Carmen Hooker Odom, Secretary

The Honorable Stephen M. Metcalf  
North Carolina Senate  
Room 300-D  
Legislative Office Building  
Raleigh, NC 27601-2808

The Honorable Verla C. Insko  
North Carolina House of Representatives  
Room 2121  
Legislative Building  
Raleigh, NC 27601-2808

Dear Senator Metcalf and Representative Insko:

As I have emphasized in my presentations, I view the state mental health, developmental disabilities and substance abuse plan as a living document and part of an evolving process. The State Plan document will be modified annually based on reviews of data, public feedback, budgetary factors and transition issues. Enclosed is the first annual update of *State Plan 2002: Blueprint for Change*, the five-year plan for state mh/dd/sa services. The following documents include :

*State Plan 2002: Blueprint for Change*

Accompanying technical documents:

- Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services Re-organization.
- State Strategic Business Plan.
- Local Business Plan.
- Staff Competencies, Education and Training.
- Glossary.
- The first Quarterly Report to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee: March 31, 2002.

As you know, we have received significant feedback over the last eight months, and we have included needed clarifications in the revised State Plan. A full report of all public feedback received is available on the DHHS web site at: <http://www.dhhs.state.nc.us/mhplan/>.

The State Plan highlights some of the activities that are occurring to implement the State Plan. Our goal is to make the State Plan document as user-friendly as possible for the general public. At the same time, we must respond to a significant number of requests from staff, families and professionals for details they need for Plan implementation. In order to accommodate their requests, we are providing technical documents that give details of the planning, strategies and outcomes being used to put the State Plan into operation.



Location: 101 Blair Drive • Adams Building • Dorothea Dix Hospital Campus • Raleigh, N.C. 27603

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The Honorable Stephen Metcalf  
The Honorable Verla C. Insko  
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As always, I am very grateful for the leadership that that the Legislative Oversight Committee is providing to the Department and the Division. I feel extremely positive about the direction in which the Plan is moving us. Area programs, providers, families and consumers are rallying around the efforts. The leadership team at the Division is highly dedicated and committed to the Plan's advancement. I look forward to an active and rewarding year.

Sincerely yours,

Carmen Hooker Odom

CHO/jk

cc: Legislative Oversight Committee  
Deputy Secretary Lanier Cansler  
Assistance Secretary James Bernstein  
DMH/DD/SAS Director Richard Visingardi  
DMH/DD/SAS Deputy Director Tara Larson  
Rob Lamme

